IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1(Currently amended). A computer-implemented method for determining the cost of and producing a user-defined content object comprising:

defining said content object in accordance with user selection and arrangement of a plurality of content entities for said content object, wherein the content object is a digital object within the computer in the form of one of a book, a collection of images, an album, a video and a multimedia object, and the content entities each include content comprising digital data, are stored within a data repository as a plurality of individually accessible file objects, and are selectively associated with an actual content count representing the quantity of content within that content entity; and

generating a price for the user to produce the user-defined content object, wherein said price generation includes:

generating an estimated content count for the selected content entities that represents an estimated quantity of content within the content object, wherein [[from]] the digital data within [[those]] the selected content entities [[to]] are utilized to determine the estimated content count representing the estimated quantity of content within the content object, ~~represent an estimated quantity of content within the content object~~ and generating from the estimated content count the price for the user to produce the user-defined content object with the selected content entities in response to a first set of conditions; and

generating the price for the user to produce the user-defined content object from the actual content counts of the selected content entities in response to a second set of conditions.

2(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating an estimated content count further comprises the steps of determining an estimated content count for each selected content entity, and summing the entity content counts to obtain the estimated content count for the content object.

3(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining an estimated content count for entities containing characters further comprises the step of determining a character count for the entity.

4(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 3, wherein the step of determining an estimated content count further comprises the step of determining a page count from the character count.

5(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 3, wherein the step of determining a character count further comprises at least one of:

counting the number of content characters in the content entity; and

determining the content entity type, and determining an average character count for content entities of that type.

6(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 4, wherein the step of generating a content object price further comprises multiplying the page count with a predetermined price per page value.

7(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the content entities comprises user-provided content, and wherein generating a price for the content object further comprises the steps of separately determining a price for user-provided content and summing the user-provided content price with the price determined for the remaining content entities of the content object.

8(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 7, wherein the price for user-provided content is determined in a first manner if the content count of the user-provided content exceeds a predefined content count maximum, and is determined in a second manner if the content count does not exceed the predefined maximum.

9(Currently amended). A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for determining the cost of and producing a user-defined content object, the method comprising:

defining said content object in accordance with user selection and arrangement of a plurality of content entities for said content object, wherein the content object is a digital object in the form of one of a book, a collection of images, an album, a video and a multimedia object,

and the content entities each include content comprising digital data, are stored within a data repository as a plurality of individually accessible file objects, and are selectively associated with an actual content count representing the quantity of content within that content entity; and

generating a price for the user to produce the user-defined content object, wherein said price generation includes:

generating an estimated content count for the selected content entities that represents an estimated quantity of content within the content object, wherein [[from]] the digital data within [[those]] the selected content entities [[to]] are utilized to determine the estimated content count representing the estimated quantity of content within the content object, ~~represent an estimated quantity of content within the content object~~ and generating from the estimated content count the price for the user to produce the user-defined content object with the selected content entities in response to a first set of conditions; and

generating the price for the user to produce the user-defined content object from the actual content counts of the selected content entities in response to a second set of conditions.

10(Previously presented). The program storage device of claim 9, wherein the step of generating an estimated content count further comprises the steps of determining an estimated content count for each selected content entity, and summing the entity content counts to obtain the estimated content count for the content object.

11(Previously presented). The program storage device of claim 10, wherein the step of determining an estimated content count for entities containing characters further comprises the step of determining a character count for the entity.

12(Previously presented). The program storage device of claim 11, wherein the step of determining an estimated content count further comprises the step of determining a page count from the character count.

13(Previously presented). The program storage device of claim 11, wherein the step of determining a character count further comprises at least one of:

counting the number of content characters in the content entity; and

determining the content entity type, and determining an average character count for content entities of that type.

14(Previously presented). The program storage device of claim 12, wherein the step of generating a content object price further comprises the step of multiplying the page count with a predetermined price per page value.

15(Previously presented). The program storage device of claim 9, wherein at least one of the content entities comprises user-provided content, and wherein the step of generating a price for the content object further comprises the steps of separately determining a price for user-

provided content and summing the user-provided content price with the price determined for the remaining content entities of the content object.

16(Previously presented). The program storage device of claim 15, wherein the price for user-provided content is determined in a first manner if the content count of the user-provided content exceeds a predefined content count maximum, and is determined in a second manner if the content count does not exceed the predefined maximum.

17(Currently amended). A computer-implemented system for determining the cost of and producing a user-defined content object comprising:

a computer system including:

means for defining said content object in accordance with user selection and arrangement of a plurality of content entities for said content object, wherein the content object is a digital object within the computer system in the form of one of a book, a collection of images, an album, a video and a multimedia object, and the content entities each include content comprising digital data, are stored within a data repository as a plurality of individually accessible file objects, and are selectively associated with an actual content count representing the quantity of content within that content entity; and

means for generating a price for the user to produce the user-defined content object, wherein said means for generating a price includes:

means for generating an estimated content count for the selected content entities that represents an estimated quantity of content within the content object, wherein [[from]] the digital data within [[those]] the selected content entities [[to]] are utilized to determine the estimated content count representing the estimated quantity of content within the content object, ~~represent an estimated quantity of content within the content object~~ and means for generating from the estimated content count the price for the user to produce the user-defined content object with the selected content entities in response to a first set of conditions; and

means for generating the price for the user to produce the user-defined content object from the actual content counts of the selected content entities in response to a second set of conditions.

18(Previously presented). The computer-implemented system of claim 17, wherein the means for generating an estimated content count further comprises means for determining a content count for each selected content entity, and means for summing the entity content counts to obtain a content count for the content object.

19(Previously presented). The computer-implemented system of claim 18, wherein the means for determining an estimated content count for entities containing characters further comprises means for determining a character count for the entity.

20(Previously presented). The computer-implemented system of claim 19, wherein the means for determining an estimated content count further comprises means for determining a page count from the character count.

21(Previously presented). The computer-implemented system of claim 19, wherein the means for determining a character count further comprises at least one of a) means for counting the number of content characters in the content entity; and b) means for determining the content entity type, and means for determining an average character count for content entities of that type.

22(Previously presented). The computer-implemented system of claim 20, wherein the means for generating a content object price further comprises means for multiplying the page count with a predetermined price per page value.

23(Previously presented). The computer-implemented system of claim 17, wherein at least one of the content entities comprises user-provided content, and wherein the means for generating a price for the content object further comprises means for separately determining a price for user-provided content and means for summing the user-provided content price with the price determined for the remaining content entities of the content object.

24(Previously presented). The computer-implemented system of claim 23, wherein the price for user-provided content is determined in a first manner if the content count of the user-provided content exceeds a predefined content count maximum, and is determined in a second manner if the content count does not exceed the predefined maximum.

25 - 27(Canceled).